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EDIC/M-16
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18 June 1956

ECONOMIC DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

Minutes of 16th Meeting

10:00 a.m., 12 June 1956

PRESENT

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[REDACTED] CIA, Chairman
[REDACTED] CIA, Vice Chairman

Mr. Walsh, OSD
Mr. Brummer, AFOIN
Mr. Shavell, Commerce
Mr. Tilson, MDAC
Mr. Royce A. Wight, MDAC
Miss Baldwin, ICA
Mrs. Young, State/ECD

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Executive Secretary

1. Minutes, 5 April 1956 (EDIC/M-15)

Action:

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 April were approved.

2. Availability of Diamonds in the USSR (EDIC/ID-24)

Discussion:

The Chairman stated that CIA will continue to evaluate any new information on this subject, and suggested that EDIC/ID-24 be approved as a summary of information available at the present time.

Action:

The paper was approved by EDIC members.

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3. Review of Current Status of Technology in Radio and Television Transmitters and its Possible Military Applications (EDIC/IR-24)

Discussion:

The ICA/MDAC member stated that he thought such a review was usually handled through EDIC Working Group I and voiced objections to having this subject introduced into EDIC.

The Vice Chairman commented that the EDIC study would cover intelligence aspects of this subject and for this reason it was appropriate for EDIC to accept the OSD request.

The Commerce member pointed out that Item 1517 had been defined in great detail in order to pinpoint particular items, but that there probably are some newly developed characteristics which are not covered. He stated that Commerce would welcome any studies that the intelligence agencies wish to make and suggested that the request should be broadened to include a survey of other items as well as Item 1517.

25X1A9a [REDACTED] CIA, stated that the intelligence community is concerned about the new developments which have occurred in the industry and Soviet capabilities insofar as these new items are concerned.

The OSD member commented that an intelligence study would be useful as a preliminary step in determining whether a redefinition is needed. He suggested that the statement of "proposed use" might be rephrased to reflect more accurately the intent to produce an intelligence study.

As an example of an EDIC intelligence study which subsequently proved useful to the community, the Chairman cited the recent EDIC paper on boron (EDIC/ID-15, Second Revision), which covered both technological and intelligence aspects.

The Chairman suggested acceptance by EDIC of this project with the understanding that it would be coordinated with EDAC Working Group I.

Action:

It was agreed to accept the project outlined in EDIC/Intelligence Request No. 24 with the stipulation that the statement of "proposed use" would be revised to reflect more clearly the intent to produce an intelligence and product study rather than a recommendation with regard to the security listing of Item 1517.

(Note: An EDIC Working Group will be appointed by the Chairman to assume responsibility for this project.)

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4. Priority Economic Defense Intelligence Objectives (EDIC/M-15)

Discussion:

The State/ECD member reported that the Chairman of the EDAC Research Panel felt it would be desirable to take up this question in EDAC Working Group III. The ECD member also commented upon the desirability of having top level guidance on policy before formulating research programs.

The ICA/MDAC member remarked that the EDIC mechanism appears to have become somewhat less useful as a closer direct interchange has developed between committee members representing the various agencies.

The Chairman called attention to the large amount of research time which has been spent in the last year and the need for a review from an interagency standpoint to determine the adequacy of the research. He deplored the lack of planning for background research which has been evident.

Action:

The discussion was noted by EDIC members.

5. Propellants Seminar (EDIC/AM-22)

Discussion:

The Secretary of the EDIC Working Group on Propellants and Fuel Additives announced that a seminar on propellants was being held 13-14 June 1956 under the sponsorship of the Working Group. The Battelle Memorial Institute will conduct the sessions on 13 June and the Solid Propellant Information Agency on 14 June.

Action:

25X1A9a On behalf of EDIC the Chairman commended the Working Group and [REDACTED] as Secretary for the Group for their efforts in arranging the Seminar.

6. Intelligence on Trade in Decentralized Commodities (EDIC/AM-16)

Discussion:

The Chairman proposed that the EDIC Subcommittee on Trade in Decentralized Commodities be discontinued as there no longer appears to be a need for it.

The Vice Chairman suggested that reports of CHINCOM exceptions should be analyzed periodically. Mr. Wight, MDAC, suggested that this be set up on a regular basis.

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Action:

It was agreed to discontinue the Subcommittee on Trade in Decentralized Commodities. CIA will undertake to explore the need for a periodic EDIC review and analysis of CHINCOM exceptions shipments.

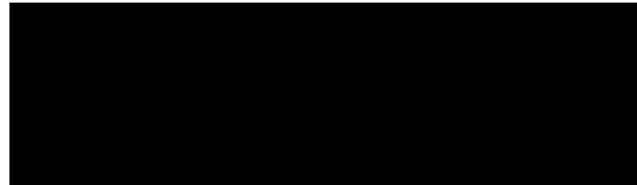
7. Sino-Soviet Bloc Imports and Attempted Procurement of Copper 1954-1955 (EDIC/IR-22)

The Chairman announced that since the Economic Intelligence Committee is now studying this problem, no further EDIC action is required. The EDIC secretariat will undertake to distribute to EDIC members the final EIC report on this subject.

8. Annual Report of the Economic Defense Intelligence Committee

The Chairman announced that the Annual Report of EDIC will be prepared shortly. A draft will be circulated to EDIC members for their comments.

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